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The Source from The House Committee on Natural Resources

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Christmas is coming early for the beleaguered residents of San Juan, Kane and Garfield counties in Utah. Reports, [though unofficial](#), indicate that President Trump will shrink Bears Ears and Grand Staircase Escalante while simultaneously taking action to protect bona fide antiquities. True to form, radical Left-wing groups are hysterically claiming that he has no authority to do so. Of course, the argument is absurd on its face: there is no reason, legal or otherwise, that a unilateral presidential action should bind every successor in perpetuity.

However, lest there be any lingering doubt, just look to the historical record. President Taft reduced his own monument by 89% and Woodrow Wilson shrunk President Roosevelt's by 50%. There are [sixteen similar examples](#). Case closed.

Native Americans being told that tribes are co-managing Bears Ears under President Obama's proclamation are being sold a [fake bill of goods](#). The Bears Ears Commission created at the time has no legal decision-making power of any kind; absolutely nothing under the executive order requires federal land managers to pay the slightest bit of attention to it. As [NPR put it](#), "Under the original Obama proclamation, tribes [have] only an advisory role."

Indeed, only legislation, not executive action, can truly result in co-management that is

more than mere symbolism. Challenge accepted. Stay tuned.

**Wednesday, December 6**

10:00 AM

1324 Longworth House Office Building

Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans

[Legislative Hearing on Bill Funding Fish Recovery Programs](#)

**Thursday, December 7**

10:00 AM

1324 Longworth House Office Building

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

[Oversight Hearing, "Transforming the Department of the Interior for the 21st Section](#)

2:00 PM

1324 Longworth House Office Building

Subcommittee on Federal Lands

[Legislative Hearing on 4 Bills](#)

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